

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-10 and 20-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 10 are amended and Claims 20-28 are added by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Nepeta et al. (U.S. Patent 6,078,479, herein "Nepeta") in view of Hayashi et al (U.S. Patent 6,490,139, herein "Hayashi"), which is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claims 1 and 10 are amended to recite that a pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material have "a magnetic gap formed between the pair of magnetic yokes." The claim amendments find support for example in Figure 2. No new matter is believed to be added.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 1 is directed to a magnetic reproducing head having a pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material, a magnetoresistance effect field, an insulating layer, and a pair of biasing films. The pair of magnetic yokes of ferromagnetic material has a magnetic gap formed between the pair of magnetic yokes and the magnetoresistance effect field is recessed from a medium-facing surface of the magnetic reproducing head and is disposed between the pair of magnetic yokes. Independent Claim 10 has been amended similar to independent Claim 1. In a non-limiting example, Figure 2 shows the pair of magnetic yokes 1 and 2, the magnetic gap 11, and the magnetoresistance effect field 9 formed between the pair of magnetic yokes 1 and 2.

Turning to the applied art, Nepeta shows in Figure 2 a magnetic tape head having first and second magnetic yokes P1 and P2. A gap G is formed between the first yoke P1 and the

second yoke P2 and a magnetoresistance layer 19 is formed between two regions P2A and P2B of the second yoke P2.¹ Therefore, Nepeta does not teach or suggest both a magnetic gap and a magnetoresistance effect field formed between a pair of magnetic yokes as required by amended independent Claims 1 and 10.

In addition, the outstanding Office Action recognizes at page 3, first full paragraph, that “Nepeta et al does not explicitly show a pair of biasing films recessed from the medium-facing surface.” The outstanding Office Action relies on Hayashi for teaching the above-noted feature. However, Hayashi does not overcome the deficiencies of Nepeta discussed above.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 1 and 10 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Nepeta and Hayashi, either alone or in combination.

New Claims 20-28 have been added to set forth the invention in a varying scope and Applicants submit the new claims are supported by the originally filed specification. In particular, new independent Claims 20 and 28 are similar to pending Claims 1 and 10, respectively, but recite “each of the pair of magnetic yokes having a magnetic tip at the medium-facing surface,” and dependent Claims 21-27 are identical to Claims 2-8, but depend from Claim 20 instead of Claim 1. Nepeta discloses that each of the magnetic yokes P1 and P2 has a magnetic tip at a medium-facing surface, but Nepeta does not teach or suggest disposing the magnetoresistance layer 19 between the magnetic yokes P1 and P2. As discussed above, Hiyashi also does not cure the deficiencies of Nepeta.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit new independent Claims 20 and 28 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Nepeta and Hiyashi, either alone or in combination.

¹ Nepeta, column 3, lines 30-40.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eckhard H. Kuesters', written over a horizontal line.

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